

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) Music game program stored in a computer readable medium for getting a computer to output music data corresponding to music selected by a player through an input means from a sound output means and to execute a procedure for displaying a background image corresponding to said music data on a display, comprising:

a music file for storing a plurality of said music data;

said music data having song data with melody being comprised of words and a melody corresponding to said words;

said song data with melody having a plurality of partial song data with melody obtained by dividing the whole words and the whole melody in the plural number in its playback order; and

each said partial song data with melody being comprised of words having one or more characters and melody corresponding to said words;

said music game program being a program for getting said computer to further execute following procedures:

demand command computing procedure for reading said music data corresponding to said music selected by said player through said input means out of

said music file and for computing a demand command for inviting said player to operate a specific operation key of said input means so as to correspond to each said partial song data with melody of said read music data;

a command image producing procedure for producing each said demand command as a command image corresponding to each said operation key of said input means;

a command image displaying procedure for displaying said produced command image, being moved on said display in the order of playback of said partial song data with melody, and for setting an operation criterion position at a predetermined position on said display and displaying it;

a timing judging procedure for judging as to whether or not said operation key was operated with a predetermined timing on the basis of a positional relation between said command image displayed moving on said display and said operation criterion position;

a music playback procedure for arithmetically processing for changing a pitch at the time of playback of said partial song data with melody corresponding to said command image from a pitch which is stored in said music file according to a judgment result of an operation timing of said operation key corresponding to each said command image by said timing judging procedure and for outputting through said sound output means;

said timing judging procedure has an accumulated evaluation value computing procedure for computing time difference between a time said command image

displayed being moved on said display passed through said operation criterion position and a time said operation key was operated, for computing an evaluation point so as to correspond to said computed time difference, for obtaining an accumulated evaluation value by accumulating said evaluation point every demand command, and for storing said accumulated evaluation value in a memory means;

said accumulated evaluation value computing procedure having a pass judgment procedure for subtracting a predetermined value from said accumulated evaluation value which has been accumulated by judging to be "pass" if said time difference is within predetermined bounds;

said music playback procedure having start pitch change procedure for setting and playing back a start pitch at the time of playback of said partial song data with melody, shifting from a standard pitch of said partial song data with melody which is stored in said music file as said accumulated evaluation value makes bigger; and

said music playback procedure having a pass playback procedure for playing back said partial song data with melody with said standard pitch of said partial song data with melody which is stored in said music file in spite of said accumulated evaluation value in said memory means when playing back said partial song data with melody which corresponds to said command image which is operated at a timing when said pass judgment procedure judges to be pass.

8. (New) The music game program stored in the computer readable medium according to claim 7, wherein said music playback procedure has a playback pitch changing procedure for playing back said partial song data with melody, changing

a pitch to be played back with time during a predetermined time after start of playback according to said accumulated evaluation value.

9. (New) Music game machine for outputting music data corresponding to music selected by a player through an input means from a sound output means and for displaying a background image corresponding to said music data on a display, comprising:

a music file for storing a plurality of said music data;

said music data having song data with melody being comprised of words and a melody corresponding to said words;

said song data with melody having a plurality of partial song data with melody obtained by dividing the whole words and the whole melody in the plural number in its playback order; and

each said partial song data with melody being comprised of words having one or more characters and melody corresponding to said words;

said music game machine further comprising:

a demand command computing means for reading said music data corresponding to said music selected by said player through said input means out of said music file and for computing a demand command for inviting said player to operate a specific operation key of said input means so as to correspond to each said partial song data with melody of said read music data;

a command image producing means for producing each said demand command as a command image corresponding to each said operation key of said input means;

a command image displaying means for displaying said produced command image, being moved on said display in the order of playback of said partial song data with melody, and for setting an operation criterion position at a predetermined position on said display and displaying it;

a timing judging means for judging as to whether or not said operation key was operated with a predetermined timing on the basis of a positional relation between said command image displayed moving on said display and said operation criterion position;

a music playback means for arithmetically processing for changing a pitch at the time of playback of said partial song data with melody corresponding to said command image from a pitch which is stored in said music file according to a judgment result of an operation timing of said operation key corresponding to each said command image by said timing judging means and for outputting through said sound output means;

said timing judging means has an accumulated evaluation value computing means for computing time difference between a time said command image displayed being moved on said display passed through said operation criterion position and a time said operation key was operated, for computing an evaluation point so as to correspond to said computed time difference, for obtaining an accumulated evaluation value by accumulating said evaluation point every demand command, and for storing said accumulated evaluation value in a memory means;

said accumulated evaluation value computing means having a pass judgment means for subtracting a predetermined value from said accumulated evaluation value which has been accumulated by judging to be "pass" if said time difference is within predetermined bounds;

said music playback means having start pitch change means for setting and playing back a start pitch at the time of playback of said partial song data with melody, shifting from a standard pitch of said partial song data with melody which is stored in said music file as said accumulated evaluation value makes bigger; and

said music playback means having a pass playback means for playing back said partial song data with melody with said standard pitch of said partial song data with melody which is stored in said music file in spite of said accumulated evaluation value in said memory means when playing back said partial song data with melody which corresponds to said command image which is operated at a timing when said pass judgment means judges to be pass.